

## **REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

### **Claim Status**

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-6 and 9-11 have been rejected. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12 and 13 have been objected to by the Examiner. Claims 2, 7 and 12 are herein canceled. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11 and 13 are herein amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

In particular, the Examiner asserted that the step of and means for “encoding” in claims 4 and 9 is inconsistent with the disclosure, and the step of and means for “3<sup>rd</sup> compressing” in claims 4 and 9 is inappropriate. In addition, the Examiner asserted that if the step of and means for “3<sup>rd</sup> compressing” in claims 4 and 9 “provides the 128 to 16 bit step, the third compressing step [and means] of claims 5 and 10 then confuses the function step”.

Applicants have amended independent method claim 4, its corresponding system claim 9, and their respective dependent claims 5 and 10. It is believed that the claims as amended satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Reconsideration of the rejections to claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 is respectfully requested.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,721,975 (Brinkman). Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,433,725 (Chen).

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have essentially incorporated the features of claims 2, 7 and 12 into their respective independent claims 1, 6 and 11, to place claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11 and 13 in condition for allowance.

### **Claim Objections**

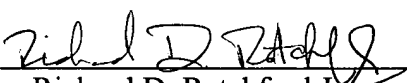
Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12 and 13 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, Applicants have essentially incorporated the features of claims 2, 7 and 12 into their respective independent claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11 and 13 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

### CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims as herein presented are allowable over the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, and that the respective rejections be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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